

**FROM RESEARCH TO ACTION (RTA) PROJECT:  
Using Knowledge to Accelerate Progress in the Elimination  
of Child Labour and Forced Labour**

**Systematization of the national and global consultations  
to develop research agendas  
on child labour, forced labour and human trafficking**

## ► Introduction

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This document describes the consultation process conducted by the Research to Action (RTA) project to facilitate collaboration between funding partners, policy actors and the research community to develop research agendas on child labour, forced labour and human trafficking at the global level and in five selected countries (Chile, Malawi, Nepal, Paraguay and Uganda).

The objective of this document is to provide development partners, policy actors, the research community, practitioners and other stakeholders with practical guidance on conducting similar multi-stakeholder consultations to develop agendas to bridge the gap between knowledge and policy action. Although the lessons learned pertain to the field of child labour, forced labour and human trafficking, the knowledge gained from this process may also be relevant to any person or organization that is planning a similar consultation process.

The report is divided into three sections plus appendices. The first section provides some context on the purpose of the global and national research agendas and how the agendas contribute to evidence-based policy design and implementation to eliminate child labour, forced labour and human trafficking. The second section provides an overview of the process of developing the research agendas. It describes the steps and the main results. The third section outlines the lessons learned and gives practical recommendations for organizing similar consultations based in this experience. The appendices include the tools used to collect relevant information.

### The global and national research agendas

The latest global estimates of child labour indicate that, despite important progress, there are still 160 million children in child labour worldwide.<sup>1</sup> Likewise, according to the latest global estimates of modern slavery, 27.6 million persons were in situations of forced labour on any given day in 2021.<sup>2</sup> The full scope and scale of human trafficking is still undetermined, given its hidden nature and the difficulties of obtaining representative estimates.

These figures make it clear that a substantial acceleration of progress will be needed to achieve Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>3</sup> Moreover, the economic impacts of COVID-19 may stall countries' efforts to address child labour, forced labour and human trafficking.

To achieve SDG Target 8.7, it is essential that there is ready access to reliable evidence that can be used to inform effective policy choices. Although the body of evidence, research and impact evaluations is growing, which has generated a better understanding of what policies should be implemented, significant evidence gaps still exist, hampering policy development.

In 2020, the RTA project developed global and national research agendas for child labour, forced labour and human trafficking. The project employed a participatory process involving the academic community and experts from international organizations, governments, employers' and worker's organizations and civil society organizations.

The purpose of the research agendas is to guide global and national stakeholders in identifying the needs and priorities for research that can support policy efforts to eliminate child labour, forced labour and human trafficking. For the funding partners, the research agendas outline the policies and policy priorities that may underpin their approach to funding and to enhancing their development impact; for policy actors, the research agendas provide insight on how research and data can inform policy decisions; and for the research community, the research agendas identify research questions that have policy relevance.

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<sup>1</sup> ILO, *Child Labour: Global Estimates 2020, Trends and the Road Forward*, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> ILO, *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage*, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> SDG target 8.7: "Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms."

## ► The process to develop the research agendas

The research agendas were developed through participatory workshops attended by global and national stakeholders. At the global level, the International Advisory Board (IAB) provided guidance and suggestions on how to develop the global research agenda. The IAB is composed of experts from international organizations, governments, employers' and workers' organizations, the research community and civil society organizations.

At the country level, the RTA project involved national stakeholders through the ILO and IOM country offices. National governments, as represented by individuals from ministries of labour and the Child Labour and Forced Labour steering committee, were consulted throughout the agenda process. This increased support and involvement from national stakeholders, resulting in a high level of participation in the research agenda development.

The research agenda process started in March 2021. The global research agenda was considered first, which informed the subsequent consultations in the five countries. The process was completed in October 2022. The process used for each research agenda can be summarized in three steps, as outlined in Figure 1.

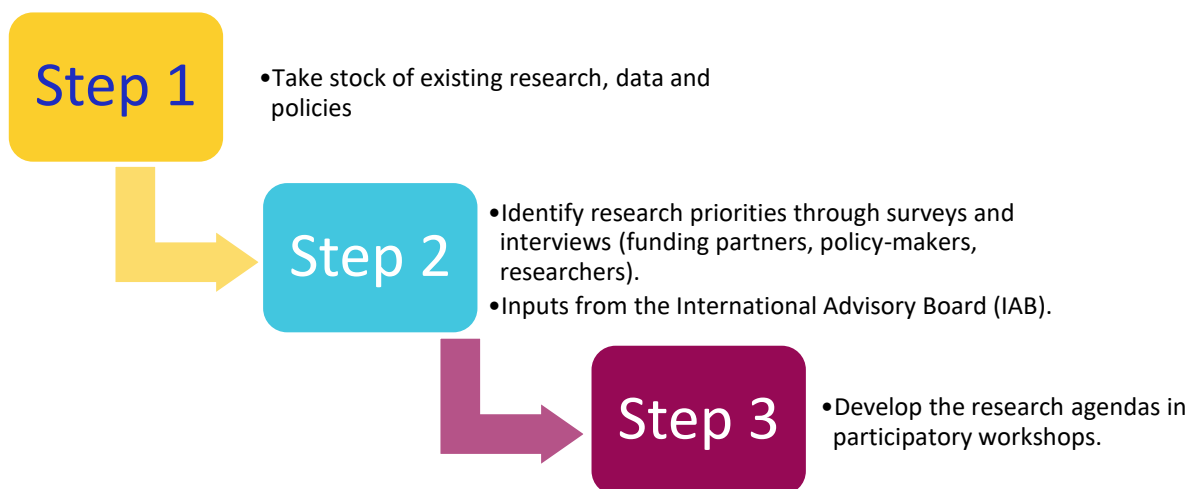
**Step 1. Mapping of existing research:** This step took stock of existing research on child labour, forced labour and human trafficking, either at the global level or in the selected countries. The mapping identified the available knowledge and the remaining evidence gaps. The findings were summarized in a global or national evidence gap map. For the national research agendas, this step also mapped the existing national policies to identify key knowledge needs for evidence-based policymaking and implementation.

**Step 2. Identifying research priorities and knowledge needs:** This step, carried out in parallel with step 1, involved an online survey and key informant interviews to gather stakeholders' inputs. The aim was to understand the research priorities and knowledge needs of the various policy actors (working with governments, workers' and employers' organizations and civil society organizations), the research community and development partners.

**Step 3. Drafting research agendas:** Finally, a draft research agenda based on the results of the evidence gap map, research priorities and knowledge needs was discussed and modified in a participatory consultation workshop with stakeholders, including the global or national academic community, policy actors, funding partners, and experts from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations.

This report focuses on steps 2 and 3 of the process. Step 1, the mapping of existing research is covered in a companion document.<sup>4</sup>

Figure 1. Process to develop the global and national research agendas



<sup>4</sup> Methodologies developed for the Child Labour and Forced Labour Evidence Gap Maps (EGM)

## Defining the guiding questions for the consultation

Defining a structured set of guiding questions enabled the RTA project team to ensure that consultations with stakeholders focused on aspects that were relevant to the development of the research agendas. The guiding questions also played a crucial role in obtaining pertinent and consistent information through surveys and interviews.

The research questions focused on the following three main dimensions of interest:

- **Access to evidence:** What factors facilitate or hinder policy actors and practitioners in accessing and utilizing evidence for policymaking?
- **Understanding of available research and gaps:** To what extent is there a shared understanding of the research gaps that need to be addressed?
- **Capacity of researchers to provide evidence:** What strengths and challenges does the research community face in engaging in research on child labour, forced labour and human trafficking?

These overarching guiding questions were further refined into specific questions in the online surveys and key informant interviews. The list of guiding questions tailored to each stakeholder can be found in Appendix I.

## Identifying the stakeholders

Stakeholders for the global and national agendas were identified through the ILO and IOM networks and Alliance 8.7. ILO and IOM country offices assisted in identifying national stakeholders. Additional organizations and individuals were invited by stakeholders to participate in the agenda process. This greatly expanded the sample size for the online surveys, key informant interviews and consultation workshops.

In Uganda, an inception workshop was held to introduce the national research agenda to national stakeholders and gather their feedback at the initial stage. This workshop effectively engaged stakeholders and ensured their continued participation throughout the process.

## Conducting the online survey

To gather a broad perspective of expectations, priorities and knowledge needs related to child labour, forced labour and human trafficking, the team conducted an online survey targeting funding partners, policy actors and the research community.

### Design

The survey was developed using the SurveyMonkey platform, which was chosen for its ease of application to a globally distributed population of respondents. Three separate questionnaires were created, each tailored to the specific interests of one of the three stakeholder groups: funding partners, policy actors and researchers. The survey structure is summarized in box 1, and the English version of the global questionnaire can be found in Appendix II.

### *Box 1. General structure of the survey questionnaire*

#### ► **Survey questionnaire: sections**

- Introduction and consent
- Demographic data
- Background in the organization (name and type of organization, level, role in child labour, forced labour and human trafficking research)
- Access to evidence (funding plans, evidence needs, research and data needs, research access)
- Understanding of available research and gaps (past and future thematic priorities, future research objectives, deciding factors, coordination with existing research initiatives)
- Capacity of researchers to provide evidence (support to early-career researchers, barriers to grant applications, organizational capacities, funding gaps)
- Dialogue to understand available research and gaps
- Closing section with link to the RTA project and a mailing list subscription option

## **Sampling frame**

The sampling for all surveys was purposive. The ILO and IOM developed an initial list of funding partners, policy actors and civil society organizations, and representatives from the research community, based on previous collaborations and their relevance to child labour, forced labour and human trafficking issues in the research-to-policy cycle. These stakeholders were invited to participate in the survey and were encouraged to share the survey link with colleagues in their networks. While the final list of respondents is unknown due to the absence of recorded personal data, the snowball approach meant a larger audience could be reached, especially for the global survey, for which there were many potential respondents.

## **Language diversity**

To encourage participation from a linguistically diverse community, the global survey was developed in three languages: English, French and Spanish. Among the total of 468 respondents, 14 per cent utilized either the French or Spanish survey. English was used for the country-specific surveys in Malawi, Nepal and Uganda, while the surveys in Chile and Paraguay were conducted in Spanish.

## **Survey design and implementation**

The survey was designed to be self-administered and anonymous, with an average completion time of five to six minutes. Respondents had the option to select their stakeholder category (funding partner, policy actor or researcher), recognizing that different individuals within an organization may have different roles. For example, a government institution's officials might be involved in policymaking, research or fund management.

The survey implementation followed a phased approach, starting with the global level survey and subsequently conducting the country-specific surveys. Table presents the sequence of survey implementation and the number of responses by stakeholder category. In all cases, the initial deadlines were extended by one to two weeks to increase response rates.

Table 1. Survey response and implementation timeline

Survey	Start date	Closing date	Number of respondents by stakeholder category				
			Funding partners	Policy actors	Researchers	Unidentified	Total
Global	1 Nov. 2021	31 Dec. 2021	39	163	242	24	468
Nepal	7 Dec. 2021	28 Dec. 2021	1	21	12	0	34
Malawi	20 Jan. 2022	10 Feb. 2022	0	5	12	0	17
Uganda	10 Feb. 2022	2 Mar. 2022	5	18	4	0	27
Chile	17 Mar. 2022	31 Mar. 2022	0	18	0	0	18
Paraguay	17 Mar. 2022	31 Mar. 2022	2	8	4	0	14

## Global survey response

The global survey received a good overall response, with notable participation from researchers (52 per cent of total responses) and policy actors (35 per cent of total responses). The proportion of responses from global funding partners was relatively lower. This can be attributed to several factors: there may be fewer individuals working in fund management than in research and policy roles, and organizations that provide funding typically do not publish direct contacts.

## National survey response

In the national surveys, the response and stakeholder distributions varied across countries. Differences in stakeholder participation can be attributed to variations in sample sizes, with policy actors generally representing a larger proportion of respondents in all countries. One factor that may have influenced participation in country surveys is the potential for “respondent fatigue” among those who had already completed the global survey.

## Conducting the key informant interviews

The key informant interviews served as a valuable complement to the online survey – delving deeper into examples and providing explanations for survey results. The interviews followed a similar structure and covered the same content as the survey. This approach enabled a comprehensive understanding of stakeholders’ knowledge needs and highlighted existing research gaps.

## Design

The semi-structured questionnaire was designed for an average interview duration of 30 to 45 minutes. The structure of the key informant interviews is outlined in box 2, and Appendix III gives the full questionnaire used in interviews for the global research agenda (the questionnaire used for the country-level interviews mirrored this format). The sample of informants was purposively selected, consisting of four to six informants per stakeholder category. This sample size was deemed sufficient to gather information efficiently.

### Box 2. General structure of the key informant interviews

#### ► Key informant interview questionnaire: sections

- Background in the organization
- Involvement in funding of research on child labour, forced labour and human trafficking
- Analysis of research needs
- Dialogue with recipient countries
- Support to access evidence
- Research funding

## Implementation

The interviews were conducted virtually. Informants were chosen from the stakeholder list on the basis of their organizational position and their expertise on SDG Target 8.7 issues. Despite the limited number of informants (see table 2 for a summary of interview participation and timeline), the utilization of the snowball technique, along with the extensive list of initial informants, allowed highly knowledgeable individuals to be reached and valuable information to be gathered. As key informants were invited to suggest additional interviewees, it was necessary to ensure that the individuals suggested possessed significant expertise. This approach enabled the acquisition of quality information despite the small sample size.

Table 2. Key informant interview response and implementation timeline

Country	Sample size	Number of respondents	Duration of the interview period <sup>(1)</sup>
Global	58	19	30 Nov. 2021 to 12 Jun. 2022
Nepal	23	9	15 Mar. 2022 to 8 Apr. 2022
Malawi	32	9	25 Feb. 2022 to 8 Apr. 2022
Uganda	28	8	6 Apr. 2022 to 11 Apr. 2022
Chile	17	4	6 Apr. 2022 to 5 May 2022
Paraguay	24	5	8 Apr. 2022 to 13 Apr. 2022

Notes:  
1. Period from the first interview to the last interview carried out. The consultants continued to follow up informants for additional interviews for approximately two weeks after this period.

## Main findings from the survey and interviews

The survey and key informant interviews provided a comprehensive overview of stakeholders' perspectives on research priorities, evidence needs and access to available research. While each country had specific priorities and interests based on its unique context, there was substantial consensus – both across countries and at the global level – regarding key areas for bridging knowledge generation and policy action on SDG Target 8.7.

The summarized findings are as follows. For more detailed information, please refer to the [global and national research agendas](#).

### Research priorities and evidence needs

- Producing regular national and sectoral estimates of child labour and forced labour is considered a top priority in all countries. The focus is on ensuring long-term financial and technical capacities to sustain data collection and to generate prevalence estimates.
- There is great interest in addressing specific knowledge gaps within broader themes, such as trafficking for forced labour, child labour and forced labour within migrant populations, among others.
- There is a growing demand for research that explores the “why”, “how” and “what works for policy action” at both global and country levels. This includes enhancing understanding of root causes through the utilization of causal inference approaches, such as impact evaluations and randomized controlled trials.
- Stakeholders also recommended conducting more holistic research that covers interconnected economic sectors and industries, such as comprehensive supply chain studies.
- There is a call for increased use of mixed-methods research to combine the strengths of quantitative and qualitative approaches to produce explanatory and action-oriented research.
- Stakeholders emphasized the importance of leveraging administrative records. Administrative data are routinely compiled from social services, law enforcement agencies, judiciary systems, migration authorities and support programmes for victims. Efforts should be made to make high-quality data more accessible for research, while protecting privacy and civil liberties.

## Access to research

- Stakeholders primarily rely on internally generated evidence, making only limited use of academic sources or external evidence. There is a consensus among stakeholders that there needs to be improved access to research for policymaking.
- Enhancing the capacity of policy actors to utilize evidence in the policymaking process is considered a priority. This involves raising awareness about the value of research on child labour and forced labour and developing technical skills to identify, interpret and incorporate research findings into policies and programmes.
- Stakeholders agree that evidence and research products should be provided to policy actors in accessible, non-technical formats.
- Stakeholders agree on the need to streamline access to research funding and increase support for building long-term research capacities, including financial and career support for early-career researchers.
- All stakeholders support the promotion of multi-stakeholder dialogue. Stakeholders highlighted the importance of existing dialogue mechanisms, such as national child labour and forced labour steering committees, in strengthening the connection between knowledge generation and its use in policy design and implementation.

## Participatory consultation workshops

The virtual consultation workshops aimed to foster collaboration among stakeholders and establish shared visions for the global and national research agendas. The workshops utilized the findings from the evidence mapping, surveys and key informant interviews.

## Design

The workshop structure was consistent across the global and country-level processes. Due to travel restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic and for the convenience of experts worldwide, the global research agenda consultation workshop was conducted virtually. For country-level workshops, a hybrid format combining in-person and virtual participation was adopted.

The workshops were designed to be interactive and inclusive (see table 3 for a workshop agenda). In the first part of the workshop (opening session and national/global research agenda, 50 minutes), the RTA project team provided an overview of the national/global research agendas, including their objectives and background, and the key insights derived from the online survey, the key informant interviews and the mapping of research and policies. The second part of the workshop (questions and answers, about 45 minutes) focused on gathering feedback from participants regarding the presented findings, identifying research-to-action gaps and prioritizing research agenda topics. The last 15 minutes of the country-level workshop were devoted to the concluding remarks delivered by a representative of the government.

Participants received a concise background document prior to the workshop. The document summarized the findings from the survey, key informant interviews and evidence gap mapping. The document for the country-level workshops also outlined the broad themes identified at the global level.



Table 3. Agenda for a country-level consultation workshop

Time	Activity	Speakers/facilitators
15 minutes	Reception/log on	Project team
20 minutes	Opening session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of the programme</li> <li>• Remarks from ILO country office</li> <li>• Remarks from IOM country office</li> </ul>	RTA Project Director ILO Country Director IOM Chief of Mission
30 minutes	National/global research agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Results of the consultation survey and key informant interviews</li> <li>• Draft country/global research agenda</li> </ul>	Project team
45 minutes	Questions and answers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions and suggestions</li> <li>• Summary of the discussions</li> </ul>	Project team (facilitators) ILO and IOM country offices (facilitators)
15 minutes	Concluding remarks	Representative of the government

## Implementation

The global consultation workshop was conducted online to accommodate participants from around the world. In contrast, the national consultation workshops followed a hybrid approach, combining both face-to-face and online participation. This allowed country stakeholders to convene, while also involving international participants.

The scheduling of the country workshops was done in collaboration with the ILO and IOM country offices and national authorities (see Table ). Once the surveys, key informant interviews and evidence gap maps were completed, dates were determined. National consultants, working closely with ILO and IOM country offices, conducted the evidence mapping to identify research conducted by local organizations that might not be publicly available online.

By involving national consultants, the process of identifying relevant research produced by local organizations was streamlined. Additionally, coordinating the workshop dates in consultation with government authorities helped garner increased support and participation from national stakeholders.

Table 4. Dates of research agenda consultation workshops

Country	Date
Global	24 Jan. 2022
Nepal	7 June 2022
Malawi	20 July 2022
Uganda	21 Sept. 2022
Chile	7 Oct. 2022
Paraguay	19 Oct. 2022

## Research agenda and documents

On completion of each consultation workshop, the participants' feedback was gathered and used in the preparation of a concise report – the research agenda. Each research agenda focuses on the global or country-level research

areas, and presents the key recommendations, including a few research questions for each of the priority areas identified.

The intention is that each research agenda will be maintained as a live document, used to highlight broad perspectives and key themes. Stakeholders will be encouraged to contribute to the updating of the research agenda, which should be done every four to five years.

To maximize the effectiveness of this approach, efforts should be made, in collaboration with country stakeholders, to identify relevant national or international meetings or events at which to disseminate the research agendas.

## ► **Lessons learned and recommendations**

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Stakeholders at the global and country levels provided positive feedback on the process used to develop the research agendas. The participatory nature of the process and the recognition of the importance of connecting knowledge generation with policymaking were key factors that fostered stakeholder engagement.

Although the consultative process required more time than initially anticipated, its collaborative nature resulted in strong participation and engagement from national stakeholders, as evidenced by their active involvement in the consultation workshops.

The use of a multi-method approach, including evidence mapping, online surveys, key informant interviews and consultation workshops, proved effective in gathering insights from stakeholders and shaping the research agendas.

Completing the entire exercise, including the survey and consultation workshops, generally takes between three and six months. This time frame allows for the provision of a reasonable survey deadline to encourage a high response rate, acknowledges the time required for key informant interviews, and accounts for the coordination with relevant authorities to determine suitable workshop dates. Considering the timing of consultation workshops in relation to important events, such as the World Day Against Child Labour, is crucial for maximizing visibility and impact.

### **Limitations**

The exercise had some limitations, which are discussed below.

#### **Evidence mapping**

Because the evidence mapping was conducted by national consultants, variations arose in terms of what was considered relevant research. Not all consultants have access to journal articles behind paywalls. Challenges also arose in identifying and accessing research focal points within national institutions. As a result, the comprehensiveness of the mapping exercise varied across countries.

#### **Surveys**

In certain countries, the online surveys received fewer responses from specific stakeholder groups. The reasons for this are not clear, but similarities between the global and country surveys and respondent fatigue may have played a role. To address this, future consultations should separate the content and timing of global and country surveys more distinctly.

#### **Interviews**

Conducting the key informant interviews presented challenges, particularly in countries with limited internet connectivity. Scheduling the interviews required a significant amount of time and, despite an extended interview period, fewer than half of the contacted informants were able to participate. It is important to acknowledge that informants' busy schedules and competing priorities may have influenced their availability for interviews. However, it is worth noting that the low participation in key informant interviews was offset by the high attendance of informants at the consultation workshops.

## ► Checklist for future consultation exercises

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The process for developing research agendas has provided valuable insights into organizing multi-stakeholder consultations for connecting knowledge generation with policy action. Here are some practical tips that can be used to guide you in future exercises:

### Consultation planning

- Ensure strong stakeholder engagement from the beginning. Consider establishing a multi-stakeholder group to foster continuous participation throughout the process.
- Create a general work plan for the consultation process and discuss it with stakeholders.
- Begin with the global consultation if it serves as a framework for national consultations, particularly when linked to broader global initiatives.

### Combination of methods

Identify what inputs are necessary for productive discussions that will lead to the definition of an action agenda. Select appropriate methods:

- Conduct a mapping exercise to assess existing evidence and identify gaps.
- Use online surveys for gathering input from a larger group of stakeholders.
- Implement key informant interviews to gather detailed insights on specific points, understand stakeholders' interests and strengths, and identify challenges related to connecting research with policy action.

### Guiding questions

- Start with general guiding questions aligned with the exercise's objectives.
- Develop specific guiding questions tailored to each stakeholder's context.

### Mapping evidence and gaps

- Determine if mapping of existing evidence and gaps is needed, specifying the type (e.g. research, policy responses).
- Design the mapping approach according to the specific needs, ranging from a broad literature review to comprehensive mapping by topic.
- For country-level evidence maps, engage a national consultant to identify research produced by national organizations that is not available online.

### Survey

- Conduct the online survey.
- Prepare a list of survey recipients in collaboration with partners and stakeholders.
- Conduct key informant interviews after the survey and engage informants using the survey findings.
- Consider the need for country-specific survey versions and a multi-language version for global surveys.
- Use techniques such as snowball sampling to expand the respondent pool if necessary and to reach additional key informants.
- Differentiate the global and country-specific surveys clearly to avoid respondent fatigue. Employ strategies such as excluding those survey recipients from countries already participating in a global agenda process, or focusing on different survey questions for global and country surveys.

### **Key informant interviews**

- Allocate sufficient time (two to three weeks) for organizing and conducting interviews.
- Use the survey results to inform the key informant interview discussions.
- Prompt interviewing the key informants on the basis of their background and expertise.
- Utilize techniques such as snowball sampling to expand the pool of key informants as needed.

### **Consultation workshop**

- Organize the workshop in close collaboration with national stakeholders.
- Prior to the workshop, disseminate a short document presenting the key results of the research mapping, survey and key informant interviews.
- Schedule the workshop to coincide with a relevant and high-impact activity – in our case, the World Day Against Child Labour – to maximize participation and visibility.

### **Research agenda document**

- Keep the research agenda as a live document, highlight broad perspectives and key themes, and encourage stakeholders to contribute.
- Prepare a concise report focusing on the key research areas and recommendations.
- In collaboration with country stakeholders, identify events at which to disseminate the research agenda.

## **► Appendices**

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I. Consultation dimensions and guiding questions

II. Global research agenda: survey ([URL here](#))

III. Global research agenda: interviews

## Appendix I. Consultation dimensions and guiding questions

Table 5. General guiding questions

Dimensions	Guiding questions	Specific aspects
1. Access to evidence	<p>Are funding partners funding policy research that is needed to provide evidence for policy actors?</p> <p>Are policy actors focusing their requests for research on the evidence that is most valuable for policymaking?</p> <p>Are researchers producing the research that is needed to provide evidence for policy actors?</p> <p>Are there ways to improve the matching of donor project funding and policymaker needs?</p>	<p>Evidence needs</p> <p>Challenges for use of evidence</p> <p>Setting of research priorities</p> <p>Alignment of research priorities to evidence needs</p> <p>Dialogue on research needs</p> <p>Support for access to evidence</p> <p>Access to global evidence</p> <p>Effectiveness of research funding</p>
2. Understanding of available research and gaps	<p>Are key knowledge needs identified? If so, what strategies are in place to obtain them?</p> <p>What types of dialogue does the research community have with policy actors and funding partners on identifying the evidence gaps and how to address them? How could this dialogue be improved?</p> <p>Are some research topics drawing more interest than others, leading to duplication between projects that involve multiple funding partners and/or to neglect of other issues/areas?</p>	<p>Decisions on priority setting</p> <p>Analysis of research gaps in policies</p> <p>Dialogue to understand research and gaps</p>
3. Capacity of researchers to provide evidence	<p>What are the critical issues for the research community (technical skills, access to methodologies and tools, funding, etc.) that affect their ability or willingness to engage in research on child labour, forced labour and human trafficking?</p> <p>What action are policy actors taking to develop in-country research capacity?</p> <p>Is research funding adequately addressing the needs of researchers?</p> <p>How can resources be better matched to the needs of researchers?</p>	<p>Support to develop in-country research capacity</p> <p>Support to develop in-country capacity to use research</p> <p>Challenges in access to research grants</p> <p>Dialogue with research community</p> <p>Critical challenges for the research community</p>

Table 6. Specific guiding questions

Dimension/ stakeholder category	Funding partners/ representatives at country level	Policy actors	Researchers Representatives of academia, civil society organizations and NGOs
1. Access to evidence	<p><b>Guiding questions</b></p> <p>Are funding partners funding policy research that is needed to provide evidence for policy actors?</p> <p>Are there ways to improve the matching of donor project funding and policymaker needs?</p>	<p><b>Guiding question</b></p> <p>Are policy actors focusing their requests for research on the evidence that is most valuable for policymaking?</p>	<p><b>Guiding question</b></p> <p>Are researchers producing the research that is needed to provide evidence for policy actors?</p>
	<p><b>Specific guiding questions</b></p> <p><i>Offer</i></p> <p><i>Alignment of research priorities to countries' evidence needs</i></p> <p>How do funding partners incorporate countries' evidence needs in their research funding criteria?</p> <p>How could funding partners improve the analysis of countries' evidence needs in the planning of their research funding?</p> <p><i>Dialogue with receiving countries</i></p> <p>What types of dialogue do funding partners have with receiving countries to align research funding with country needs?</p> <p><i>Support for access to evidence</i></p> <p>What are funding partners doing to facilitate receiving countries' access to evidence (including support to improve countries' capacities to use research for policy action)?</p>	<p><b>Specific guiding questions</b></p> <p><i>Demand</i></p> <p><i>Use of evidence</i></p> <p>What is the current use of existing evidence in policy design, implementation and evaluation (national data – surveys, research – and global research, etc.)?</p> <p><i>Challenges for use of evidence</i></p> <p>What factors (institutional bottlenecks, technical capacities, etc.) facilitate or prevent the use of evidence in policy design, implementation and evaluation?</p> <p><i>Access to global evidence</i></p> <p>What facilitates/prevents access to existing global evidence (research from other countries/regions, meta-studies, global repositories of research and data, regional and global research networks, etc.)?</p>	<p><b>Specific guiding questions</b></p> <p><i>Setting of research priorities</i></p> <p>How are research priorities on child labour, forced labour and human trafficking decided by the research community?</p> <p>What level of priority does research on child labour, forced labour and human trafficking have in the research agendas? Why?</p> <p><i>Access to global evidence</i></p> <p>What facilitates/prevents the access of the (national) research community to existing global evidence (research from other countries/regions, meta-studies, global repositories of research and data, regional and global research networks, etc.)?</p>

Dimension/ stakeholder category	Funding partners/ representatives at country level	Policy actors	Researchers Representatives of academia, civil society organizations and NGOs
	<p>How do funding partners use research results to align their research funding policies to countries' needs or to key research gaps?</p> <p><i>Process for research funding</i> Are there any bottlenecks in the research funding process?</p>	<p><i>Process for research funding</i> Are there any bottlenecks in the research funding process?</p>	<p>What action is the research community taking to facilitate the use of existing evidence for policymaking, implementation and evaluation (dissemination events/blogs/research summaries/databases and repositories, etc.) and how could this action be improved?</p>
<p>2. Understanding of available research and gaps</p>	<p><b>Guiding questions</b> Are some research topics drawing more interest than others, leading to duplication between projects funded by multiple donors and/or neglect of other issues/areas?</p> <p><b>Specific guiding questions</b> <i>Decisions on priority setting</i> What kind of research are funding partners prioritizing and why?</p> <p>What kind of analysis do funding partners undertake to identify research gaps?</p> <p>What are the key decision factors (themes, sectors, regions, agendas on child labour, forced labour and human trafficking) that funding partners use to set priorities for research funding?</p> <p>How do funding partners use analysis to define their funding priorities? How could this analysis be improved?</p> <p>What types of measures do funding partners take to promote synergies/avoid duplications with other funding partners in research funding? How could these measures be improved?</p>	<p><b>Specific guiding questions</b> <i>Analysis of research gaps in policies</i> Do current policies on child labour, forced labour and human trafficking identify key knowledge needs and include measures to obtain it?</p> <p><i>Challenges for understanding available research and gaps</i> What factors facilitate/prevent the understanding of available research and gaps in policymaking?</p> <p>How could these challenges be addressed?</p>	<p><b>Specific guiding questions</b> <i>Dialogue to understand research and gaps</i> What types of dialogue does the research community have with policy actors and funding partners to identify the evidence gaps and how to address them? How could this dialogue be improved?</p>

Dimension/ stakeholder category	Funding partners/ representatives at country level	Policy actors	Researchers Representatives of academia, civil society organizations and NGOs
3. Capacity of researchers to provide evidence	<p><b>Guiding questions</b> Are funding resources adequately addressing the needs of researchers? Alternatively, do grant limitations present issues for quality or depth of research findings? How can resources be better matched to the needs of researchers?</p>		
	<p><b>Guiding questions</b> Are funding resources adequately addressing the needs of researchers? Alternatively, do grant limitations present issues for quality or depth of research findings? How can resources be better matched to the needs of researchers?</p> <p><b>Specific guiding questions</b> <i>Relevance of granting processes</i> Are granting processes adequate for funding quality and relevant research? Are there issues that could be improved (granting process, requirements, etc.)?</p> <p><i>Support for research capacity development</i> What support are funding partners providing to develop research capacities in receiving countries?</p> <p><i>Dialogue with research community</i> What types of dialogue are in place between the research community and relevant agencies to develop research capacities?</p> <p>How can this dialogue be improved/promoted?</p>	<p><b>Specific guiding questions</b> <i>Support to develop in-country research capacity</i> What actions are policy actors taking to develop in-country research capacity?</p> <p>How could collaboration with the research community be improved?</p> <p><i>Support to develop in-country capacity to use research</i> What actions are policy actors taking to improve the institutional capacities for use of research evidence in policymaking and implementation? How could these actions be improved?</p>	<p><b>Specific guiding questions</b> <i>Critical challenges for the research community</i> What are the critical issues that the research community (technical skills, access to methodologies and tools, funding, etc.) must engage with in research on child labour, forced labour and human trafficking? How could these critical issues be addressed?</p> <p><i>Multi-stakeholder collaboration</i> What types of collaboration with funding partners and policy actors will be necessary?</p> <p><i>Challenges to access research grants</i> What are the main limitations within the grant-making process (including issues of depth, quality or long-term impact of research)? How could these limitations be addressed?</p>



## Appendix III. Global research agenda: interviews

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>▶ Background</p> <p>Start with asking current position in the agency of each of the participants in the interview.</p>	
<p>▶ Involvement in funding of research on child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking</p> <p><b>Q1. What role/involvement do you have in the agency activities on funding/supporting research on child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking?</b></p> <p>To the extent that the person is aware, focus on global and regional initiatives, ask for bilateral and multilateral/joint initiatives.</p> <p>Ask individual(s) to briefly explain responsibilities and the level (at decision-making level, technical level). The respondent role and level will determine the focus of the interview.</p> <p><i>If the answer to Q1 is NO, end interview.</i></p>	
<p>▶ Analysis of research needs</p> <p>Now, we would like to discuss with you what is the approach of your agency to align the generation of research to the evidence needed for policymaking on child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking.</p> <p><b>Q2. What type of analysis of research needs is carried out by your agency in the planning of the research funding?</b></p> <p>Use the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sources from our agency (e.g., experts, reports)</li> <li>• Sources from other funding agencies</li> <li>• Academic sources (e.g., peer-reviewed papers)</li> <li>• Other sources (specify)</li> </ul> <p><b>Q3. In your opinion, is this research analysis adequate? If not, what should be improved?</b></p>	
<p>▶ Dialogue with recipient countries</p> <p><b>Q4. Are you aware of/participated in dialogues of your agency with the policy actors and researchers of recipient countries on evidence needs on child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking?</b></p> <p><b>Q5. If so, what is your assessment of the agency’s dialogue with policy actors and researchers on evidence needs on child labour, forced labour and human trafficking?</b></p> <p>Explore the reasons of the respondent position on satisfaction with the agency dialogue with stakeholders.</p>	

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>▶ Support to access evidence</p> <p><b>Q6. What initiatives has your agency implemented in recipient countries to support policy actors, researchers, and other stakeholders to access and use existing evidence to develop policies on child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking?</b></p> <p>Categories to discuss:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Funding of specific programs/projects to develop capacities of public agencies to access, analyse and use research to develop policies on child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking</li> <li>2. Funding of evidence repositories/databases, or activities that generate data on child labour, forced labour and human trafficking</li> <li>3. Support (including funding) of multi-party dialogues on how to improve access to research evidence to advance the global agenda</li> <li>4. Other (specify)</li> </ol> <p><b>Q7. What are the key decision factors in your agency to set priorities for research funding on child labour, forced labour and human trafficking?</b></p> <p>Use the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thematic areas or economic sectors</li> <li>• Geographic regions</li> <li>• Thematic areas not covered by other agencies</li> <li>• Thematic areas with evidence gaps</li> <li>• Other factors (specify)</li> </ul>	
<p>▶ Research funding</p> <p><b>Q8. In your opinion, what are the main bottlenecks that your agency encounters in the funding process of research on child labour, forced labour and human trafficking?</b></p> <p>Categories to explore: Offer factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Related to the research funding process (administrative/financial requisites)</li> <li>• Related to gaps in the information that your agency requires to assess research proposals</li> </ul> <p>Demand factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Related to the demand from research organizations in recipient countries</li> </ul> <p><b>Q9. What is your assessment of the priority that your agency gives to funding research on child labour, forced labour and human trafficking?</b></p> <p><b>Q10. Is there any other important point regarding how the global community can improve the use of rigorous research by policymakers and practitioners in support to efforts to tackle child labour, forced labour and human trafficking around the world you want to add?</b></p>	

## ► The Research to Action (RTA) project

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### **Using Knowledge to Accelerate Progress in the Elimination of Child Labour and Forced Labour**

The ILO's RTA project centers on bridging the divide between policy research and policy action to tackle issues of forced labour, child labour and human trafficking. The primary objectives of the project are to increase access to evidence, facilitate understanding of available research and gaps, enhance capacity to provide evidence and fill gaps, and promote new interest and engagement in the subject area. The RTA project collaborates closely with the International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s Protection Division. The RTA project is funded by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL).

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